

REMARKS

By this paper, claims 1, 8, 9, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26 and 27 have been amended and claims 16 and 18 have been canceled. Additionally, new claims 28 and 29 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-15, 17 and 19-29 are pending.

In the outstanding Office action dated June 30, 2005, claims 1-10 and 13-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,636,641 to Fariabi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,720,300 to Fagan. Additionally, claims 11 and 12 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fariabi in view of Fagan and further in view of Reiss (WO 98/22024).

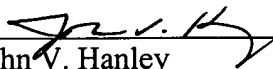
In response to the rejections of the claims, independent claims 1, 8, 26 and 27 have been amended to recite a composite elongate core including an inner core formed of a precipitation hardened material concentrically surrounded by a layer formed of a superelastic material. As such, it is believed that each of the independent claims as well as their respective dependent claims are allowable over the cited art. Significantly, none of the cited references teach or disclose, either alone or in combination, an inner core formed of a precipitation hardened material concentrically surrounded by a layer formed of a superelastic material. In particular, the Fariabi patent teaches surrounding a superelastic nitinol alloy inner member with a high strength sheath, the inner nitinol member providing desirable distal flexibility and the outer sheath of a high strength material providing the necessary stiffness and pushability (See Col. 5, lns. 65 et seq.). Additionally, the Fagan patent merely teaches a guide wire shaft formed from specially treated precipitation hardened alloys but does not contemplate such an alloy concentrically surrounded by a layer formed of superelastic material. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of the pending claims are allowable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have attempted to completely respond to the outstanding Office action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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